

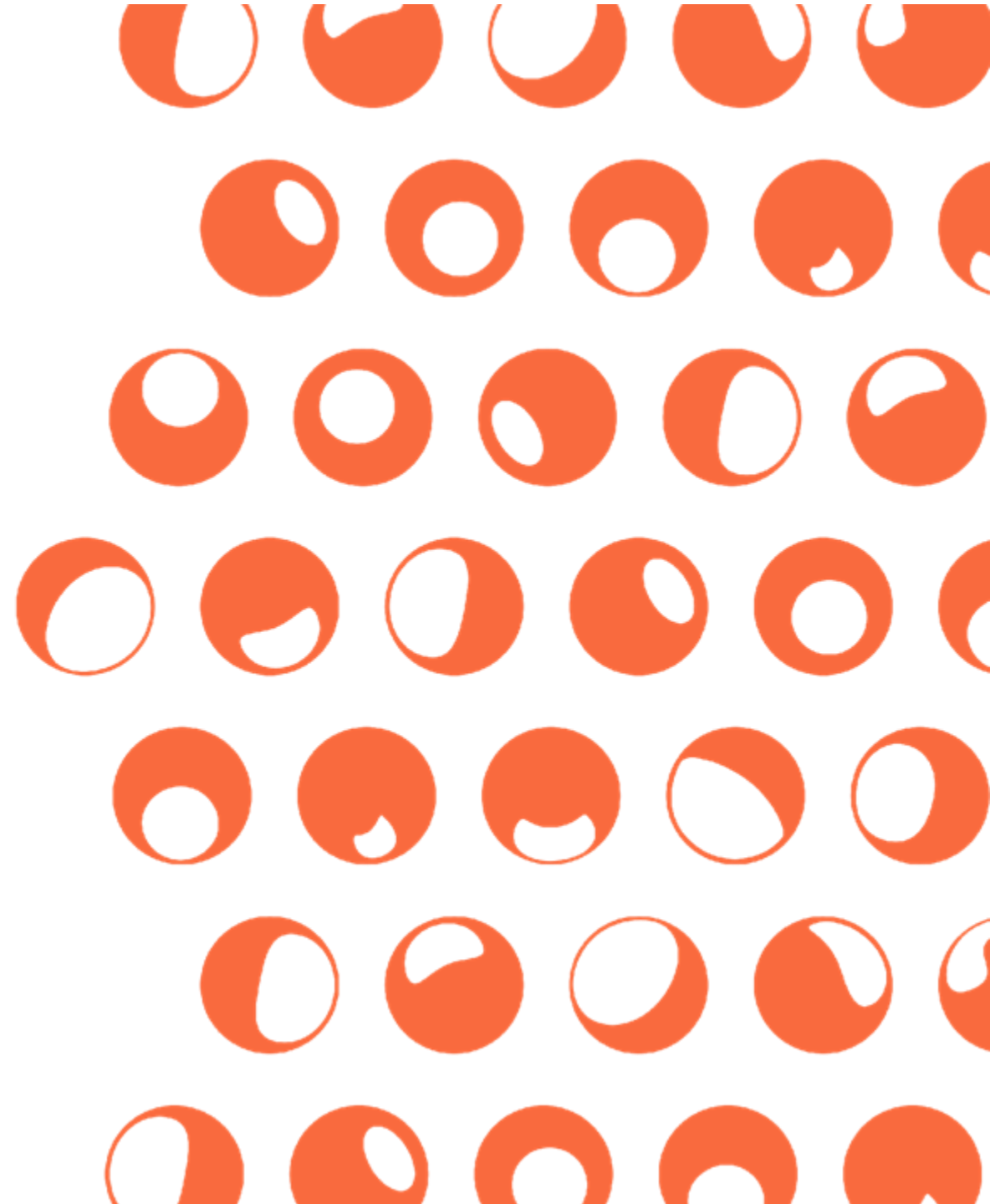


**COHERENT
DIGITAL**

Taming the wolf: using grey literature in academic research

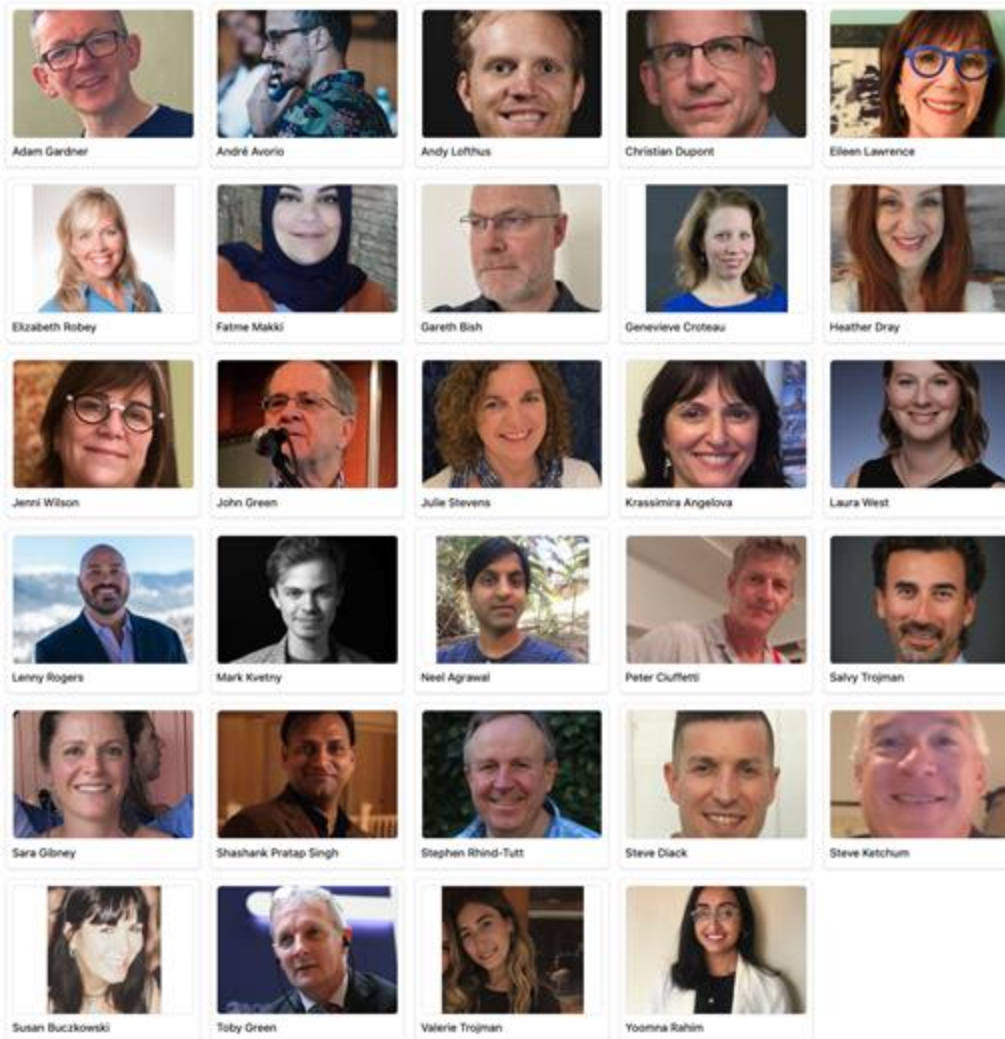
14th ALLS Conference, Cluj-Napoca, 29 October
2024

[Index](#)



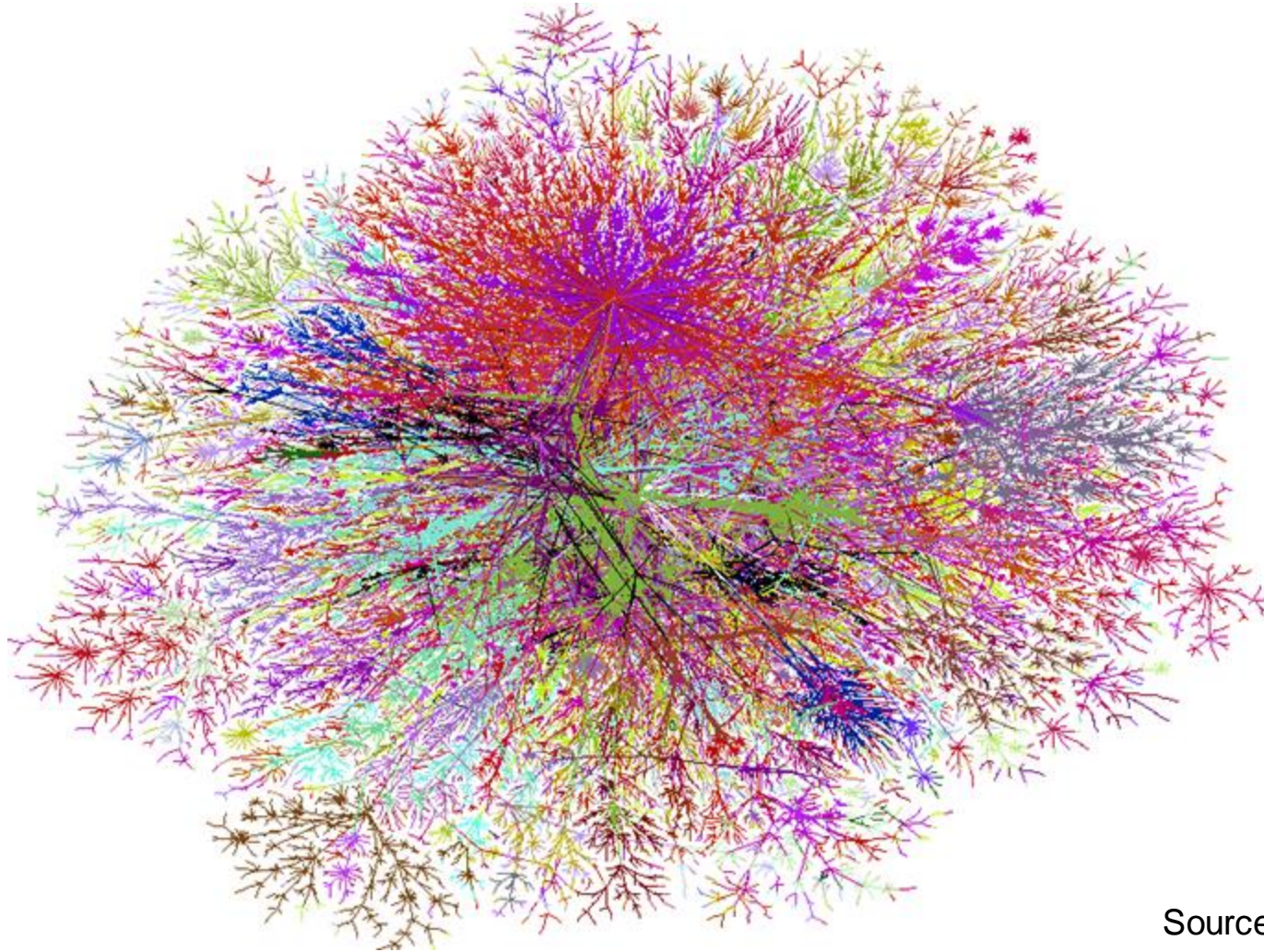
**What makes
Coherent different?**

Who we are



- New (founded in 2019)
- Small (28 people – 14 former Alexander Street)
- Truly global (6 continents)
- Combined 700+ years of experience in publishing companies like SilverPlatter, Chadwyck Healey, Gale, Alexander Street Press etc.

We tame wild content and make it useful



Source: National Science Foundation



Why is that important?

- On average, 2.5+ million grey literature documents are added to the scholarly literature every year
- *That's about the same volume as journals and books!*

Organizational coverage



5,000
cities and
governments



6,000
NGOs



5,000
research
centres



3,500
foundations



3,500
think tanks



280
IGOs

- 40,000 organizations producing billions of dollars in research per annum
- Not covered by traditional databases
- Missing from and deprecated by search engines



Indexed, preserved and searchable with a click



Coverage for STEM, business and more



Content types

- reports,
- books,
- articles,
- working papers,
- policy briefs,
- data sets,
- tables,
- charts,
- case studies,
- blog posts,
- videos, and more...

Grey literature is...

Important

Ranked most important
by policy researchers

High quality

66% of reports go through
peer review process

Large

2.5m+ new
reports/year

Broad

Covers subjects from
Astrophysics to Zinc Mining
from every country

High impact

Mentioned more in media
than books and journals

Growing fast

More open material
more organizations

...so why isn't it used more?

Scattered

Over thousands of websites and libraries

Mixed quality

Quality is compromised by fake think tanks fake reports and commercial pitches

Impermanent

Inactive organizations takedowns and link rot make policy reports disappear

Lacking tools

Index only, siloed, broken links, unsearchable, no version control

Insufficient metadata

Few have DOIs ORCIDs MARCs citations or other scholarly tools

**Let's tame the
grey wolf!**



**Wait – I have some questions
though...**

Is grey literature trustworthy?

Yes... much of it is peer-reviewed

Not the same peer-review process as books or journals, but ~60% is reviewed before publication*.

An organization's reputation is on the line every time they publish, and future funding is dependent on having a good reputation.



*Source: 2017, [Lawrence, A., Influence seekers: The production of grey literature for policy and practice](#) *Information Services & Use*, 37 (4)

Is it high impact?

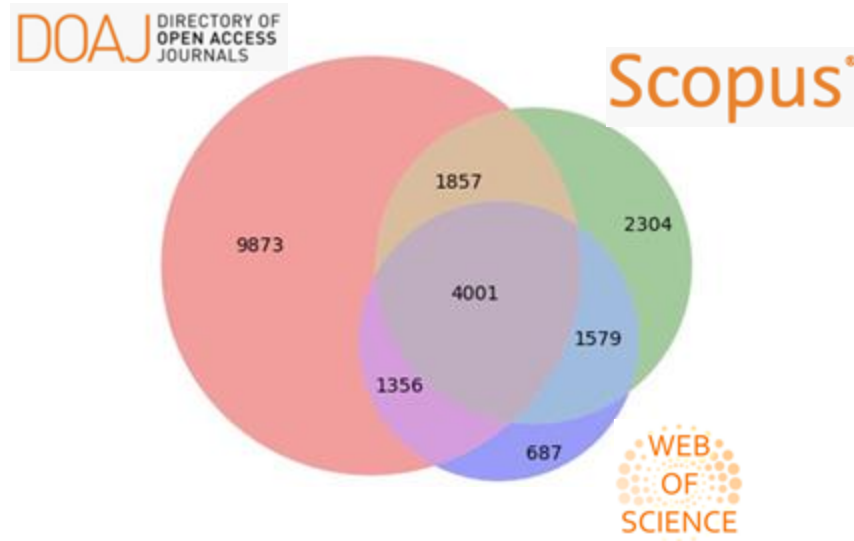
Yes... it's highly referenced in journals and across society

Yale Climate Connections recommended 1 journal but 11 grey literature reports to attendees at COP26



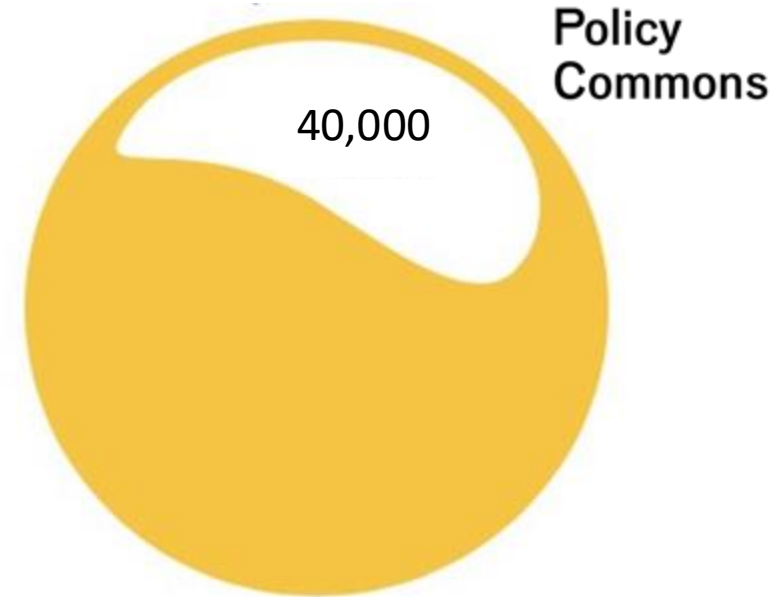
Media often cite think tank reports – a single recent issue of *The Economist* mentioned over 30

Is it covered by traditional databases?



Traditional discovery services
focus *inside* academia

No



Our focus is >40,000 research organizations
outside academia

(Journal coverage by database(source: DOAJ vs. # of organizations)

What about timeliness – how current is it?

“Grey literature is produced by organizations ‘on the ground’ without the delays and restrictions of journal and book publishing.”

[Simon Fraser University](https://www.sfu.ca/policycommons/)

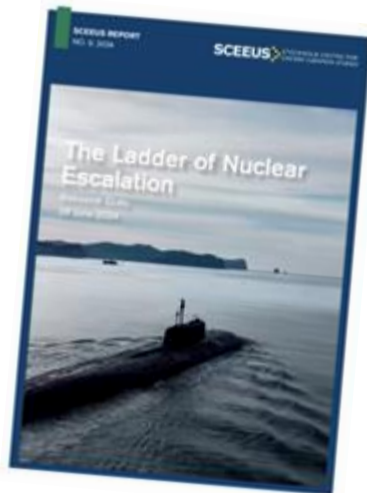


Search for *putin NEAR/7*
ukraine

30 results

Date Added: Past week X

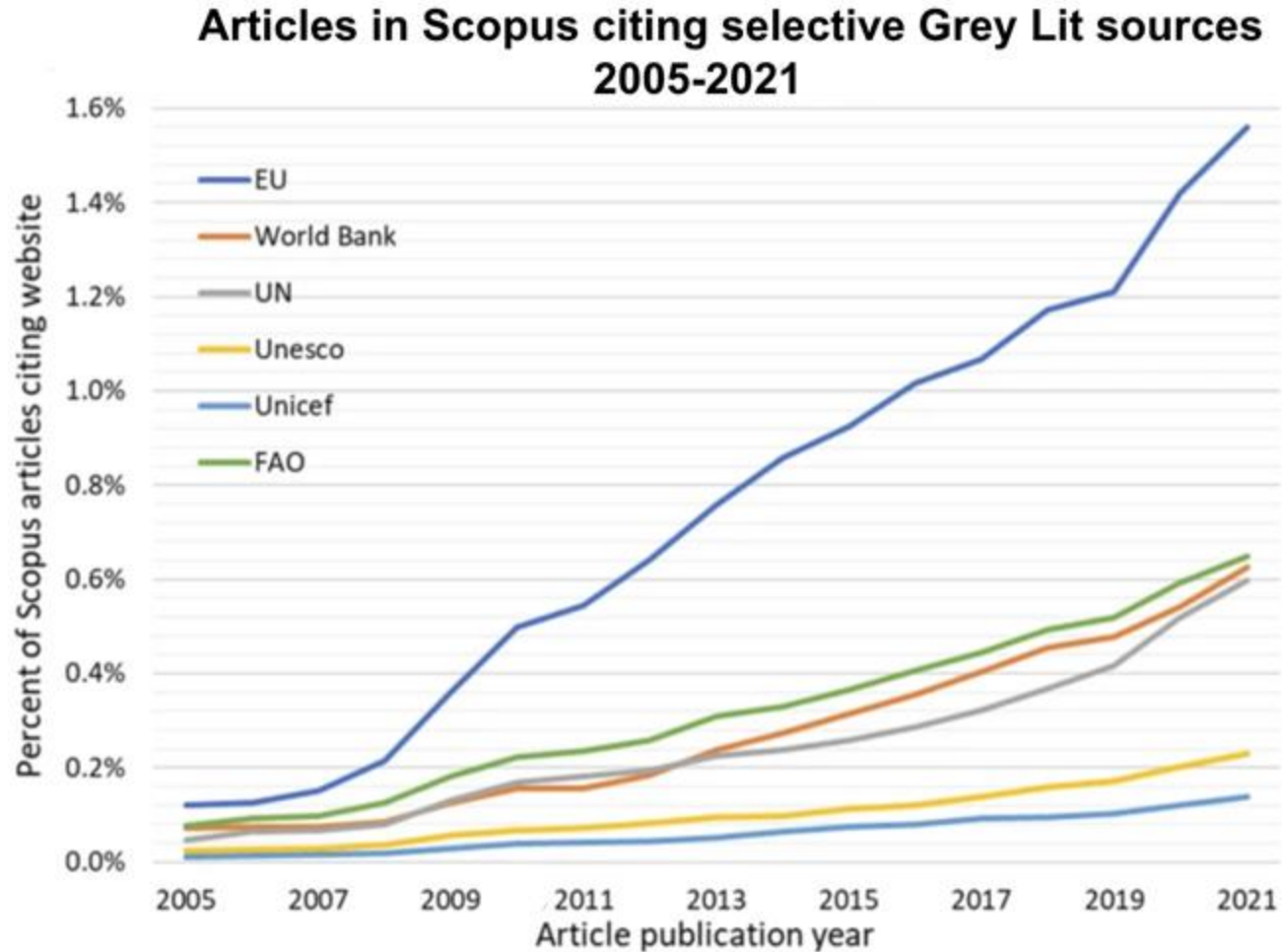
- Daily and weekly updates
- No cognitive gap as with books and journals
- We added 7m items in 2023 – averaging 500+ per hour!



Published 13 June
Available in *Policy Commons* 13 June

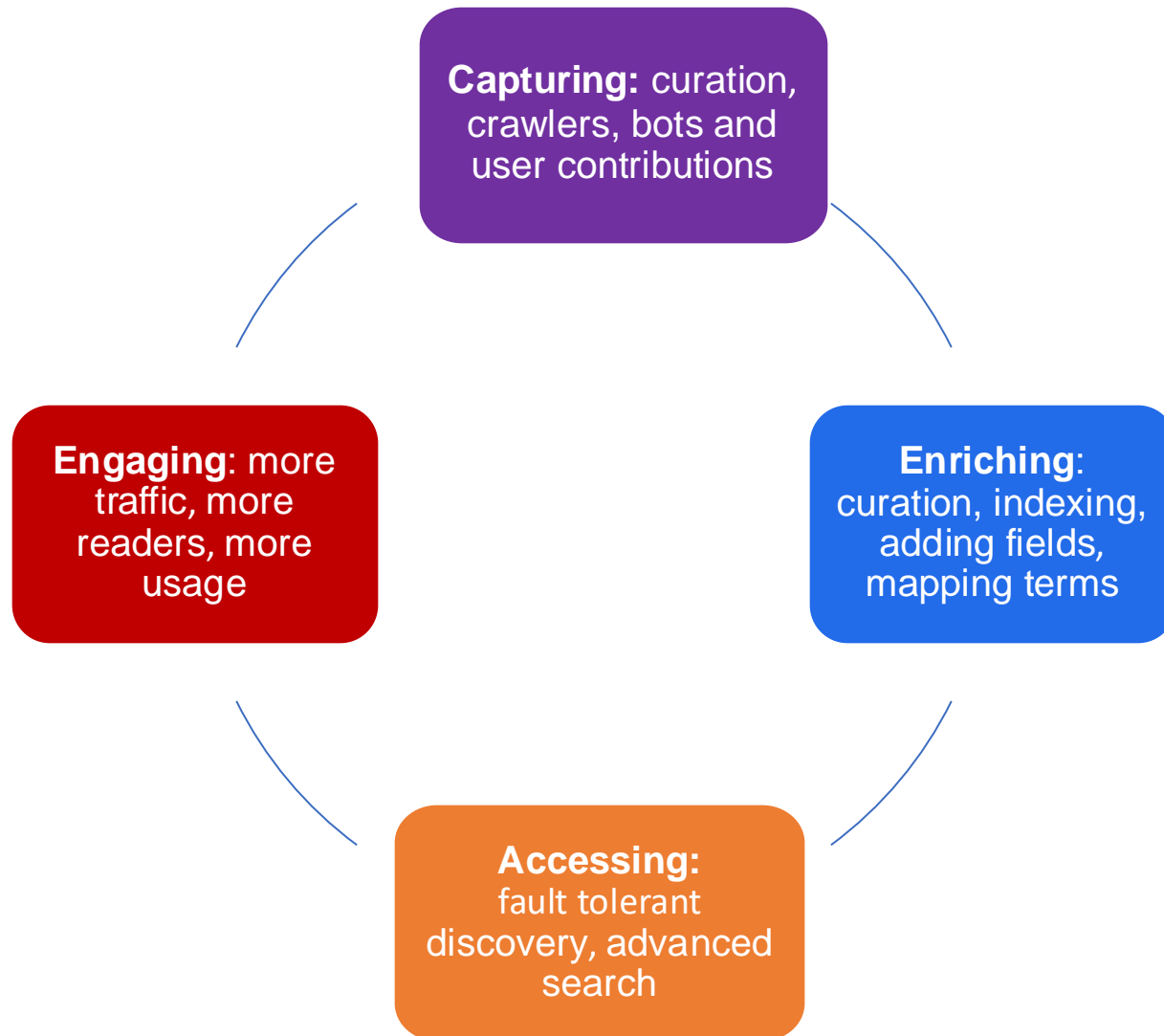


More researchers are citing fugitive content



- 10.4% of citations in nursing³
- 12% of engineering journal citations¹
- 40% of engineering PhD dissertations/Masters theses citations²
- 75% of studies used fugitive literature to support answers³
- 80% of researchers across disciplines report using greylit⁵

Our methodology



Tools processes and skills

- We and our users curate content at volume
- New tools enrich it
- Content owners are attracted by the enrichment and audience
- The more content the more value each enrichment tool has

We tame the grey for the scholarly record



We

Capture

Capture and save content from web, paper, and other media



Enrich

Tools to enrich content



Present

Platform for researchers and students



Enable

Tools to disseminate, build, and analyze traffic

Example

Captured >30 million pages from >10,000 organizations

Extracted title, summary, pub date, place, subject, and converted tables

High functionality platform, delivering 3 million items to >50,000 users

Custom portal creation and inclusion in Google Scholar

Improved research and teaching

Practical Real World Impact:

Theory in action, real world examples, professional insights

Currency:

Daily updates - the most up-to-date information in fast-moving fields.

Diversity:

Multi-language, multi-region, multimedia

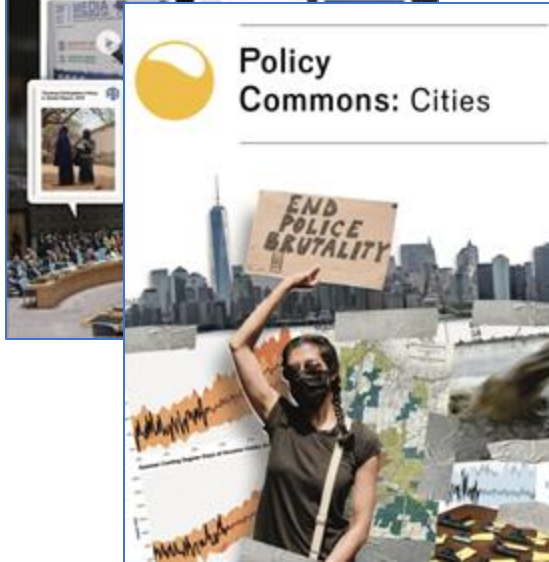
Uniqueness:

Materials not covered elsewhere,

Tools for the Academy:

PIDs, preservation, RORs, ORCID, COUNTER, MARCs, training & support

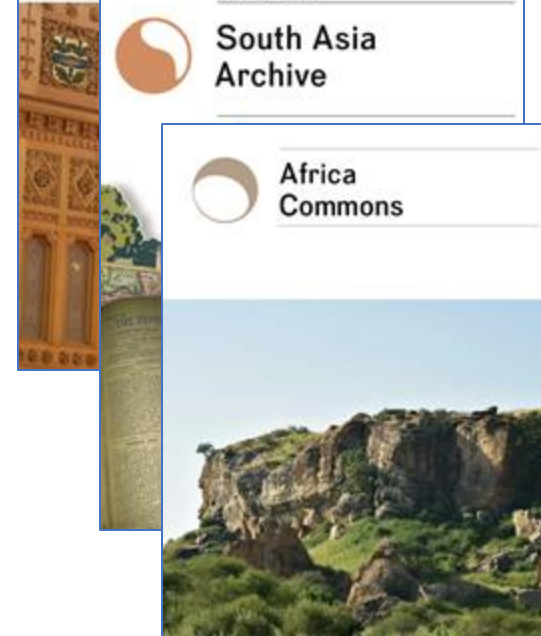
Growing portfolio



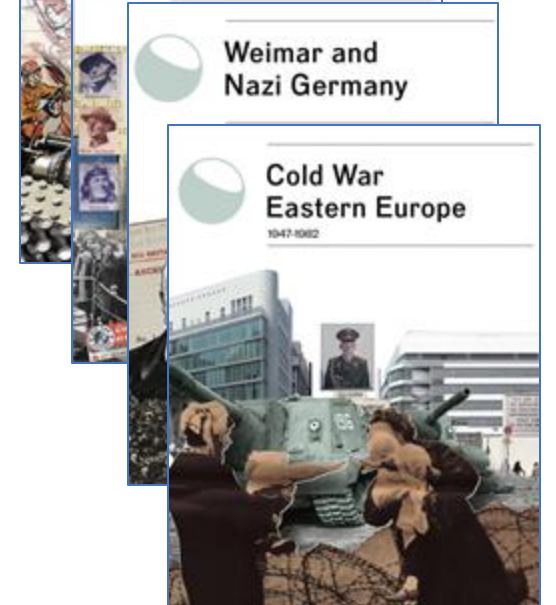
Grey
Literature



Learning
Objects



Regional
Collections



Primary
Sources

Growing portfolio of Grey Literature



**Policy
Commons**

"...the kind of product I wish I'd had all my career. It provides access to things you can't find out about but need right now."

John Wright Business Librarian
University of Calgary



Coming soon: Applied Science Commons



- Public Health and Social Care (available)
- Computing, Data and AI (forthcoming)

Future Modules

- Climate, Environment and Sustainability
- Bioengineering, Medicine and Life Sciences
- Electrical, Electronics and Control Systems
- Civil, Mechanical and Materials

Thank you!



Learn more:

<https://coherentdigital.net>

or contact us at:

kangelova@coherentdigital.net

agardner@coherentdigital.net

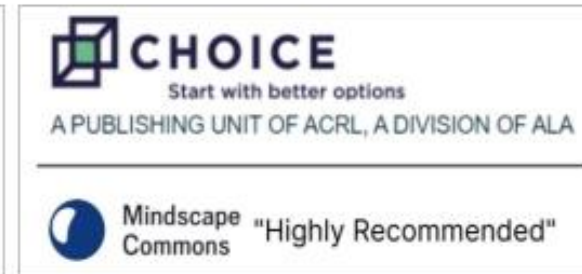
End here? 20 slides = approx. 40 minutes

- Maybe add some more slides to show forthcoming esp. Applied Science

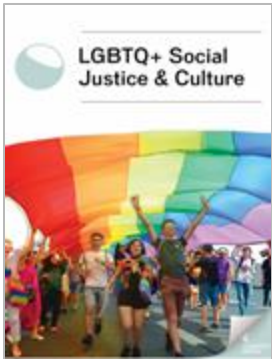


Mindscape Commons

The world's first library VR database



Primary Sources



Social Justice

North American History



European History

Black History

Global Studies



[South Asia Commons](#)

[Latin America](#)

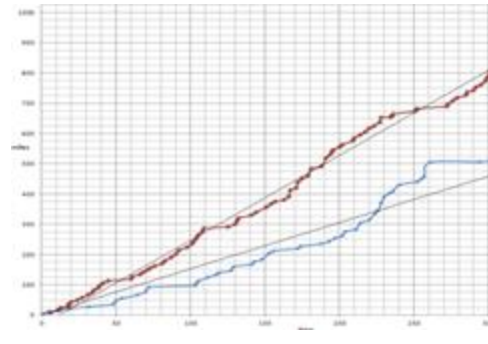


[Canada Commons](#)




[Africa Commons](#)

Selected Platform Features



Simple but powerful search

Policy Commons

Upload

Organizations

Publications

Topics

Tables

Lists

Modules

Q Search

Advanced

Help


India NEAR agriculture

finance AND "small farms"

net-zero AND NOT mathematics


elections NEAR trust

+




40,105

Organizations



15,010,607

Publications



3,399

Topics

Funding Sources

Governments or multi...	751
Foundations or grants	640
Corporations	390
Individual citizens	333
University-funded	262
Member funded	133
Endowments	109
Foundations/Grants	103
Governments or multi-g...	23
Foundations/Grants[Gove...	7

View more

Organization Type

Nonprofit	12,243
NGO	8,242
IGO	235
Government	169
Other	159
Education	57
Healthcare	18
Corporation	8
Publisher	2
University	2

Country

United States of Amer...	7,339
Canada	3,888
United Kingdom	1,535
Germany	640
Australia	368
Brazil	341
India	325
France	314
China	289
Netherlands	283

View more

Status

Active	20,703
Inactive	432

Budget

USD <499k	75
USD 500k-999k	55
USD 1-4.9M	179
USD 5M-19M	126
USD 20M-49M	71
USD 50M-100M	39
USD >100M	130

Functions

Research	2,935
Advocacy	1,959
Education and training	832
Research Education and...	257
Funding	138
Education and Training R...	98
Sets standards or regula...	92
Fieldwork	91
Research Advocacy	72
Advocacy Research	71

View more

Topics

Social Policy	2,338
Economics	1,550
Governance	1,055
Environment	975
Health	579
Education	471
Energy Resources	422
Human Rights	421
Climate	399
Inactive Organizations	338

View more



Advanced search

Advanced Search

The Advanced Search interface includes the following sections:

- Keyword or phrase:** A text input field for the main search query.
- in:** A dropdown menu set to "All fields".
- AND:** A dropdown menu for Boolean operators.
- in:** A second dropdown menu set to "All fields".
- + Add query:** A button to add additional search criteria.
- Search:** A button to execute the search.
- Publication date:** Fields for "From:" and "To:" with dropdown menus.
- Organization:** A text input field with the placeholder "Start typing organization name...".
- Organization Type:** A grid of checkboxes with counts for various organization types:
 - Corporation: 1063
 - Foundation: 12484
 - Government: 1215885
 - Higher Education: 13989
 - IGO: 993533
 - NGO: 488502
 - Nonprofit: 181625
 - Other: 96302
 - Research Center: 88592
 - Think Tank: 45690
- Publication Type:** A grid of checkboxes with counts for various publication types:
 - Acts, Decisions, Instruments: 19
 - Administrative document: 77359
 - Article: 11334
 - Assessment: 258

- Phrase search
- Boolean operators AND OR NOT NEAR
- Unlimited number of queries
- Field search
 - Title
 - Author
 - Summary
 - Subject
 - Publication type
 - Publication country
 - Organization type
 - Words within an organization
- New fields under development
 - Region as subject

Impact tracking

- Conduct a search
- See which organizations are most mentioned in the results

The screenshot shows a search interface for 'children displacement' with 2,220 results. The sidebar on the left includes filters for 'Discover', 'Publication Type', and 'Organization'. The 'Mentions' section is circled in red, showing a list of organizations and their mention counts. The main content area displays search results, including a snippet from a UNICEF report titled 'Children uprooted in the Caribbean'.

Search for children displacement
2,220 results

Discover

- Publications with tables
- Premium content

Mentions new

- University of Toronto 26
- Syracuse University 18
- Virginia Tech 11
- Cato Institute 8
- US Dept. of Energy 6

Publication Type

- Report 684
- Project 41
- Case study 7
- Other 3

Organization

- World Bank Group 189
- Oxfam International 97

Children uprooted in the Caribbean
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund - 5 December 2019 English

How stronger hurricanes linked to a changing climate are driving child displacement ...

Matches within the text

CHILDREN UPROOTED IN THE CARIBBEAN How stronger hurricanes linked to a changing climate are driving child displacement. From 2014 to 2018, 3.6 million people, including 761,000 children, were internally displaced. In contrast, more than 600,000 people, including 175,000 children, were displaced in the preceding five-year period from ... The hurricanes displaced more than 400,000 children and disrupted essential services for thousands more. IMPACT ON CHILDREN As noted, the devastation wrought by hurricanes can cause the displacement of thousands or even mil-

Children uprooted in a changing climate
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund - 27 October 2021 English

Turning challenges into opportunities with and for young people

Matches within the text

conflicts.10 There were over 9.8 million weather-related internal displacements of children – equivalent to more than ... and young people, moving is their only option.12 Between 2014 and 2018, 761,000 children were internally displaced by ... But migrant and displaced children and young people – whether living in protracted displacement, refugee camps, urban slums ... Children and families for internally displaced children


This is a zoomed-in view of the 'Mentions' sidebar from the search results. It shows a list of organizations and their respective mention counts, with a 'View more' button at the bottom.

Mentions new

- University of Toronto 26
- Syracuse University 18
- Virginia Tech 11
- Cato Institute 8
- US Dept. of Energy 6

[View more](#)

Impact Features - org analysis



University of Toronto

[Follow](#) [Share](#) [Add to list](#)

The University of Toronto (UToronto or U of T) is a public research university in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, located on the grounds that surround Queen's Park. It was founded by royal charter in 1827 as King's College, the first institution of higher learning in Upper Canada. Originally controlled by the Church of England, the university assumed its present name in 1850 upon becoming a secular institution. As a collegiate university, it comprises 11 colleges each with substantial autonomy on financial and institutional affairs and significant differences in character and history. The university maintains three campuses, the oldest of which is St...

[Read more](#)

Type

Higher Education


Website


utoronto.ca

Year Founded

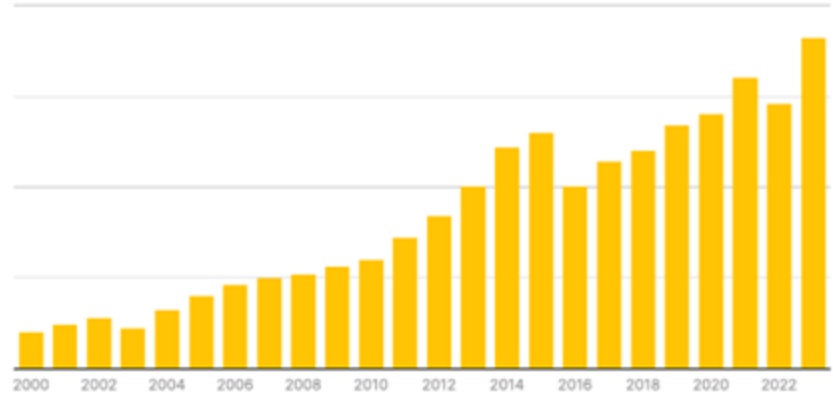
1827

Location

Toronto, ON 

 Flag this organization

Mentions by Year



Mentions by Countries

	Canada	2,220
	United States	1,250
	Australia	602
	New Zealand	240
	South Africa	110



Find cite and download tables



Income and poverty in the COVID-19 pandemic

AEI · 26 June 2020 **English**

Abstract This paper addresses the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing timely and accurate information on the impact of the current pandemic on income and poverty to inform ...

 Tables



+3 more

- View thumbnails within reports
- Browse them directly
- Cite them directly
- Download them in CSV

Table 1. Poverty Rates, Monthly CPS, 2020

Month	January	February	March	April	May	(April+May)-(Jan+Feb)
Full Sample	0.109 (0.005)	0.108 (0.005)	0.101 (0.005)	0.086 (0.006)	0.085 (0.006)	-0.023 (0.005)
Number of individuals	20,020	20,822	16,733	14,383	14,236	
Age						
Age 0-17	0.155 (0.010)	0.149 (0.010)	0.162 (0.012)	0.129 (0.013)	0.119 (0.012)	-0.028 (0.011)
Age 18-64	0.098 (0.004)	0.097 (0.004)	0.084 (0.005)	0.072 (0.005)	0.076 (0.005)	-0.024 (0.005)
Age 65+	0.076 (0.006)	0.086 (0.006)	0.074 (0.006)	0.070 (0.006)	0.064 (0.006)	-0.014 (0.006)
Race						
White	0.095 (0.005)	0.090 (0.005)	0.086 (0.006)	0.073 (0.006)	0.075 (0.006)	-0.019 (0.005)
Black	0.178 (0.016)	0.208 (0.017)	0.211 (0.021)	0.167 (0.024)	0.152 (0.021)	-0.034 (0.020)
Other	0.125 (0.015)	0.117 (0.015)	0.087 (0.013)	0.082 (0.017)	0.081 (0.019)	-0.040 (0.017)
Head Education						
H.S. Degree or below	0.205 (0.011)	0.201 (0.010)	0.198 (0.013)	0.191 (0.015)	0.171 (0.014)	-0.022 (0.013)
Some College or above	0.060 (0.004)	0.058 (0.004)	0.052 (0.004)	0.038 (0.004)	0.047 (0.005)	-0.016 (0.004)
COVID19 Death Rate						
High Death Rate (>=10 per 100k)	0.096 (0.006)	0.108 (0.007)	0.101 (0.007)	0.083 (0.008)	0.078 (0.007)	-0.022 (0.007)
Low Death Rate (<10 per 100k)	0.120 (0.007)	0.107 (0.007)	0.102 (0.008)	0.089 (0.008)	0.092 (0.009)	-0.023 (0.008)
Date of Stay at Home Order						
Early Stay at Home (3/23 or before)	0.105 (0.007)	0.106 (0.007)	0.102 (0.008)	0.088 (0.008)	0.085 (0.008)	-0.019 (0.008)
Late Stay at Home (after 3/23)	0.112 (0.006)	0.109 (0.006)	0.101 (0.007)	0.084 (0.008)	0.085 (0.008)	-0.027 (0.007)
Date of State of Emergency Order						
Early State of Emergency (3/9 or before)	0.106 (0.007)	0.105 (0.007)	0.098 (0.008)	0.087 (0.009)	0.082 (0.008)	-0.021 (0.008)
Late State of Emergency (after 3/9)	0.111 (0.006)	0.111 (0.006)	0.106 (0.007)	0.084 (0.008)	0.088 (0.008)	-0.025 (0.007)

Note: The sample includes individuals who are included in the householders' families and who are in their 1st or 5th month in the survey. Individuals with imputed income are excluded from the sample. Standard errors are clustered at the household level.



Deployment in your organization

Open Permanent Identifiers

All materials have a permanent ID. Most have an openly accessible bib record

Google Scholar

We're indexed by major search engines like Google

Organization MARC records

We provide organization level MARCs

Link Architecture

We link back to content owners for context and to drive traffic to them

Discovery Services

We work with Ebsco Summon Primo and WorldCat

Alerts

Set up alerts by subject organization or search

Impact study example

REF2014 impact case studies About How to search FAQs API Terms of Use REF2014 Home

Resourcing multilingual education in Africa

Submitting Institution University of Reading	Unit of Assessment Education	Summary Impact Type Societal
Research Subject Area(s) Education: Specialist Studies in Education Language, Communication and Culture: Language Studies, Linguistics		Download original PDF

[View similar case studies](#)

Summary of the impact

University of Reading research, in collaboration with a South African partner, has led to the development of materials on literacy learning in multilingual settings in Africa, transforming teaching practice across the continent.

A second, related project is helping to deepen understanding of the conditions necessary for African language publishing to thrive, attracting considerable interest from the South African book industry. The findings have also been used to justify the inclusion of African languages in a South African reading campaign; to help civil society organisations campaigning for improved basic education in South Africa; and to support the development of local language materials in seven African countries.

Underpinning research

The research was led by Professor Viv Edwards, building on work she had carried out in the 1980s and 1990s focusing on linguistic and cultural diversity in UK classrooms and how teachers can be supported in their attempts to embrace this. Between 1998 and 2010, she extended the focus to Africa through work undertaken in collaboration with University of Reading colleagues Nae Rasool and Marlene Ngweni, and Carole Bloch at the University of Cape Town.

In the first of two projects, a British Council Higher Education Link award (2003-6) to Edwards and her team made it possible to compare responses to linguistic diversity on the part of UK and South African teachers. It drew on analysis of UK and South African policy documents and semi-structured interviews with educational policy makers and language activists.

References to the research

a. Rasool, N., Edwards, V. & Bloch, C. (2006) Language and development in multilingual settings: a case study of knowledge exchange and teacher education in South Africa, *International Review of Education* 52 (6): 277-28. DOI: [10.1080/01111159.006.9008.x](#)
[Scopus](#)

b. Edwards, V. & Ngweni, JM (2011) Multilingual education in South Africa: the role of publishers, *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 32(5): 435-450. DOI: [10.1080/01434832.2011.587192](#)
[WEB OF SCIENCE](#) [Scopus](#)

c. Edwards, V. & Ngweni, JM (2011) African language publishing for children in South Africa: challenges for translators, *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, 14(5): 589-602. DOI: [10.1080/13670500.2011.558618](#)

Details of the impact

Impact overview

Outputs of the first project — training materials for teachers — are helping to change teaching practice in many thousands of classrooms across Africa. The findings of the second project have been used to support policy decisions in a national reading campaign in South Africa; are being used by civil society groups in the preparation of litigation for improved basic education, also in South Africa; and are serving as a focal point for materials development in a further six African countries.

Impact of first research project

The beneficiaries of the first research collaboration have been teachers and teacher educators in the school system in South Africa and beyond and, through them, very large numbers of children across the continent.

The TELL (Training for Early Literacy Learning) materials (<http://www.telldrillers.com/>) were designed for use in both short workshops and longer courses. They are the only training materials available for early literacy learning in multilingual settings and can be downloaded free of charge, both very important considerations in an African context. Since 2009, they have been used as part of the Pan-African MA on Multilingual Education at the University of Cape Town, which attracts approximately 15 teacher trainers a year from all over the continent; these trainers, in turn, cascade their learning as part of initial teacher education and continuing professional development courses on return to their workplaces.

Sources to corroborate the impact

The sources below can corroborate the detailed impact testimonials are available upon request.

Dean of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana (Development of multilingual education in Ghana and promotion of publication in Ghanaian languages resulting in the commitment of the Ministry of Education to purchase one million new books for use in basic education.)

Director Nal'sal project, South Africa (The use of the training materials in the training of very large numbers of teachers and volunteers in reading clubs. Advisory role and support on the Nal'sal project.)

Impact study from a major university

- Misses 60% of impact (has citations from 4 journals but misses 6 reports)
- Doesn't cover real-world impact—only other academic publications
- Mentions 4 nontraditional sources, but provides no links, citations, or files as corroboration
- Has a broken link, which prevents access to research output
- Has no permanent identifier
- Is accessible only via the REF2014 website

Build impact for your institution



- Publish reports
- Suggest organizations for coverage
- Suggest reports for us to index
- Reach 150,000 researchers from
 - Top academic institutions
 - Parliaments
 - Researchers, faculty, and students
 - Corporations, IGOs, NGOs, think tanks, municipalities, agencies, and more
- Reach practitioners

Suggest and publish

<1 min
Elapsed
Time

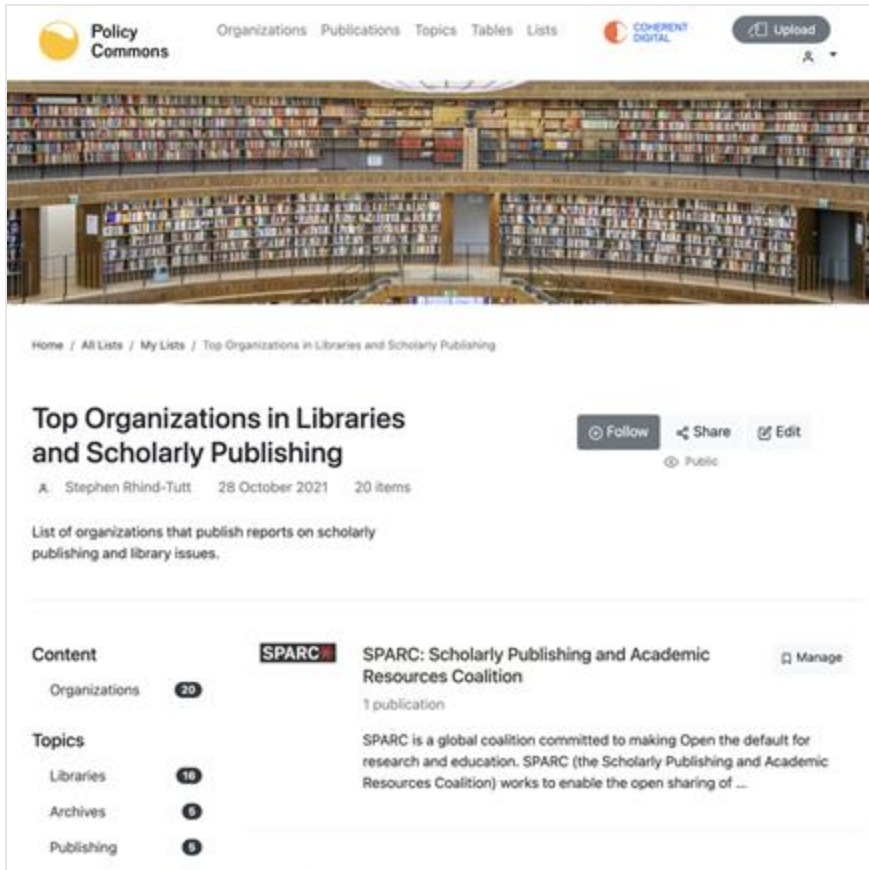


1. Contribute a file or a link
2. We enrich and add metadata automatically
3. We make it available to users
4. Offending material is flagged and removed. Persistent violators are denied access.

*Publish and share
materials if you hold
copyright*

*Suggest links to
materials you host or
don't hold copyright to*

Create and share lists



Create lists of

- Organizations
- Reports
- Searches
- Topics
- Or combinations of the above

Choose your permission level

- Yourself
- Your institution
- Public



We generate your own open high functionality landing page



*You can export and put on your own site**

*forthcoming



Improve syllabi and LibGuides

India: Politics/Public Policy

Resources for Indian studies

Home Data Economics Education History/Culture Law Literatures Maps

Media Newspapers/Periodicals **Politics/Public Policy** Religion

Science/Medicine/Technology Urban Studies

Politics/Public Policy-India

- Anneke International India
- AI India site
- Asian Centre for Human Rights-India
- India page of ACHR, New Delhi
- Asian Human Rights Commission-India
- AHRC India page
- Business & Hur India country page
- Centad
- Consortium for resource development working papers
- Center for Strategic Insights
- Central Tibetan
- Restoring Tibet
- Center for Policy
- Public policy the about the structure

Think Tanks & Policy Centers

- Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and
- Guttmacher Institute
- Alliance for Health Reform
- American Conservative Union
- American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy
- American Foreign Policy Council
- Aspen Institute
- Brookings Institution
- Canadian International Council
- Carnegie Council on Ethics and International
- Center Center
- Cato Institute
- Center for Congressional and Presidential
- Center for Democracy and Technology
- Center for Global Development
- Center for Law and Social Policy
- Center for National Policy
- Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assess
- Center for Strategic and International Studi
- Center of Concern
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Christian Coalition of America
- Claremont Institute for the Study
- Common Cause
- Commonwealth Fund
- Competitive Enterprise Institute
- Concord Coalition
- Concord Coalition

Think tanks by Topic

- Education, Children and Youth
- Energy
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Government and Public Institutions
- Health
- Information, Communications and Technology
- Integration and Trade
- Labour Markets
- Macroeconomics and Finance
- Population, Demography and Migration
- Private Sector Development
- Social Development and Poverty
- Social Inclusion, Equality, Gender and Diversity
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Tourism and Culture
- Urban Development

69% of librarians report having broken links in their collections and spend **1.3 hours a week** fixing them³.

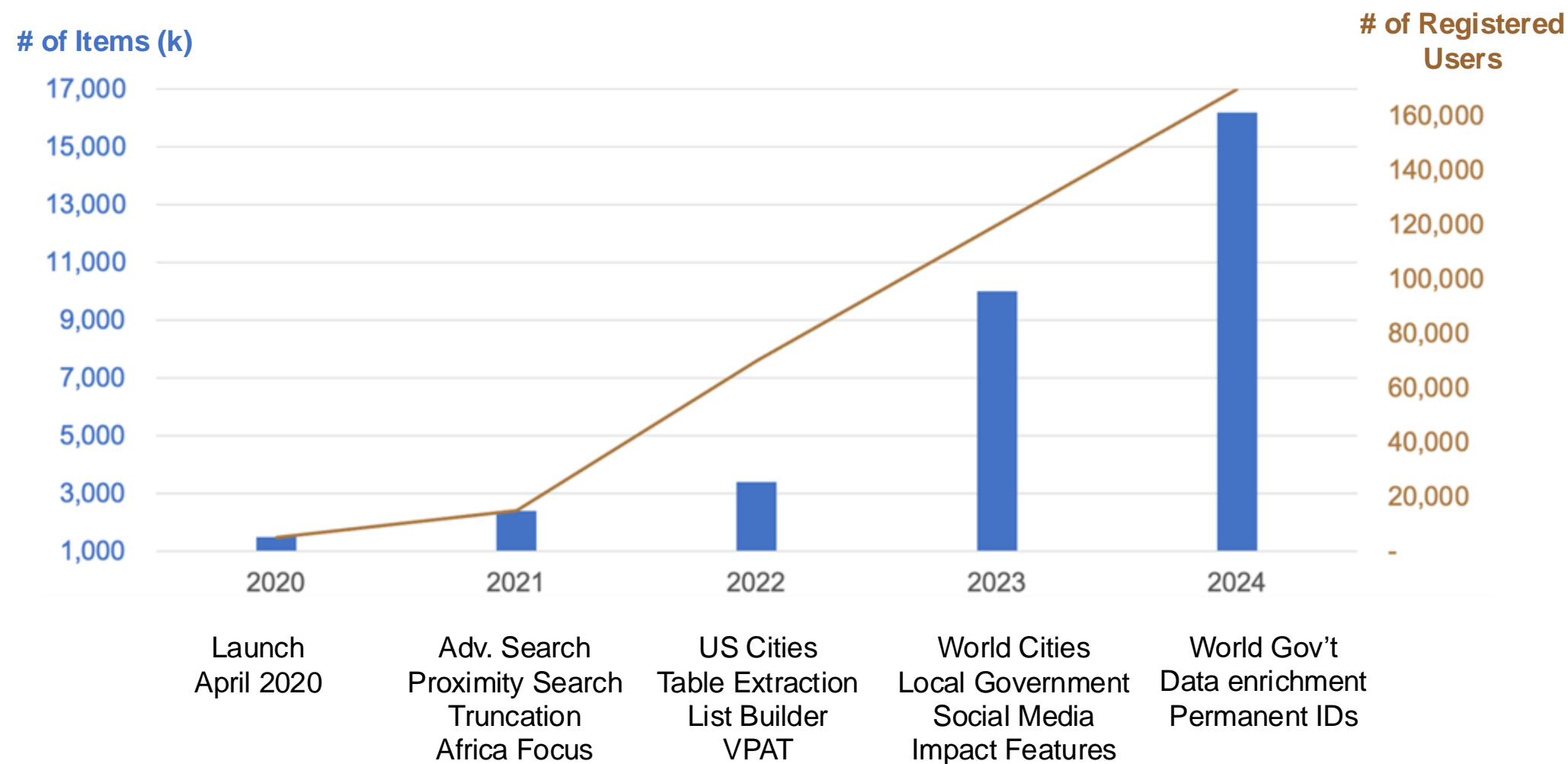
- Our study of syllabi showed more than 25% of links to policy content are broken!



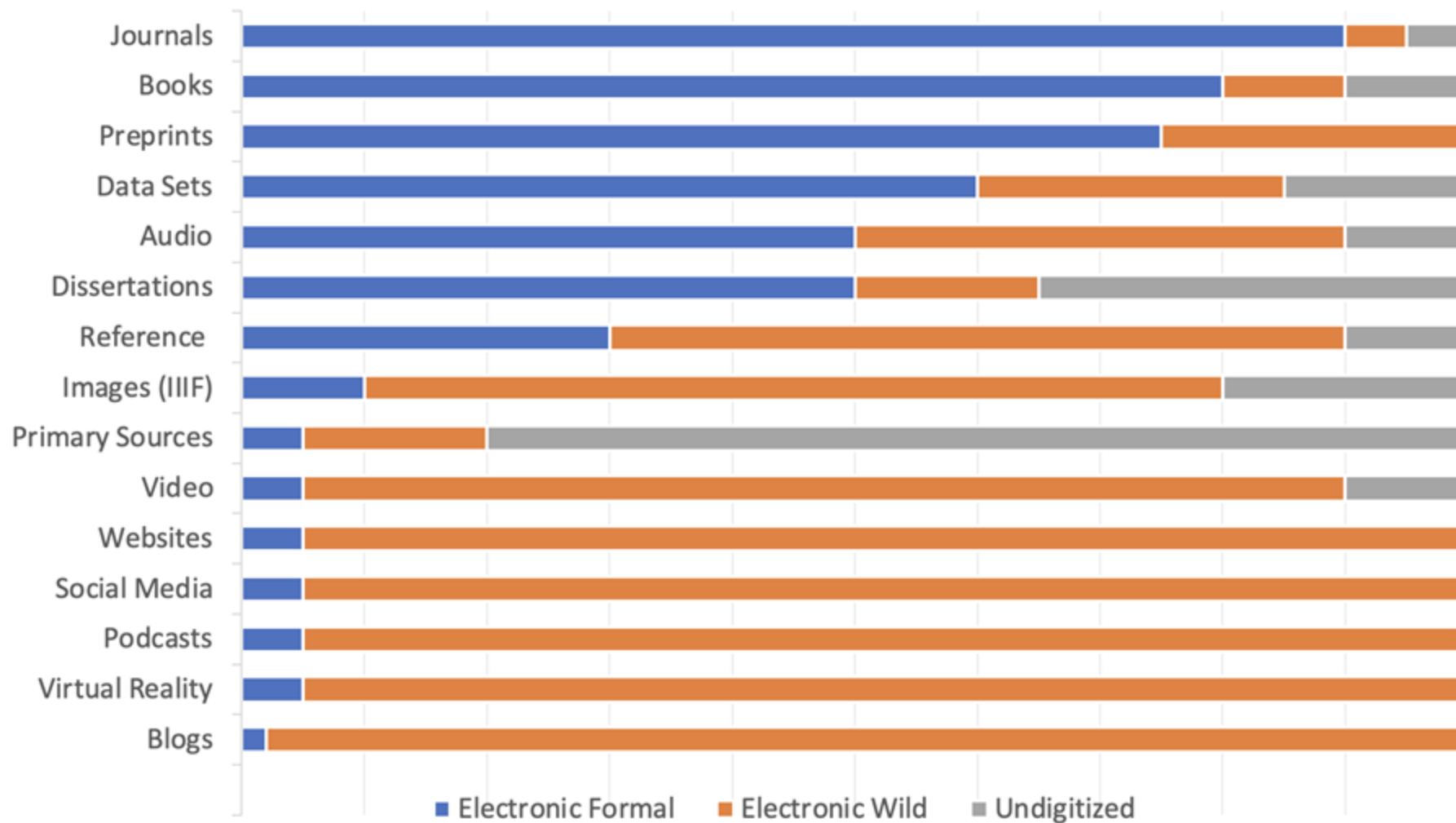
- Generate lists and export them into reference sites syllabi and guides
- *Policy Commons* maintains the links



Rapid improvements



What's tame? What's wild?



There's more Grey Literature than you think (probably)



Visible part of the scholarly
record

~2.5 million journal
articles & books per year



Take this point and expand it

So where does all this 'grey' research come from?

Take this point and expand it



Invisible part of the scholarly record

~2.5 million reports, papers, videos, podcasts, tweet threads etc per year

